

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COPENH 01127 030307Z

14

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01

ACDA-07 IO-11 /078 W

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R 021500Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2448

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUACHAREST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 1127

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, DA

SUBJ: ROMANIAN AMBASSADOR'S VIEWS ON DANISH COMPLAINTS ABOUT
COMMUNIST ACTIVITIES IN BALTIC

SUMMARY: AT HIS REQUEST, ROMANIAN AMBASSADOR CALLED ON ME
EARLIER THIS WEEK TO INQUIRE WHETHER INCREASED DANISH COMPLAINTS
OVER COMMUNIST NAVAL AND AIR ACTIVITIES IN THE BALTIC ARE LINKED TO
WHAT HE CALLED A STIFFENING OF AMERICAN POLICY TOWARDS THE
SOVIET UNION. ROMANIAN AMBASSADOR IMPLIED IN HIS PRESENTATION
THAT THIS WAS THE CASE. I ASSURED HIM THAT AS FAR AS I KNOW,
DANISH CONCERN OVER INCREASED COMMUNIST NAVAL AND AIR ACTIVITIES
IN THE BALTIC IS NOT CONNECTED TO WHAT HE CALLED THE
"HARSHER TONE" IN RECENT AMERICAN PUBLIC STATEMENTS ON POLICY
TOWARD THE SOVIET UNION. END SUMMARY.

1. AT HIS INITIATIVE, I RECEIVED ROMANIAN AMBASSADOR GEORGE
PLOESTEANU. SINCE HE IS DEAN OF THE LOCAL DIPLOMATIC CORPS, I
ASSUMED THAT HE WAS CALLING ON ME TO RETURN THE COURTESY VISITS
I HAD MADE ON MY DIPLOMATIC COLLEAGUES SINCE MY ARRIVAL HERE FOUR
MONTHS AGO. IT TURNED OUT THAT THIS WAS NOT THE CASE, BUT THAT
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 COPENH 01127 030307Z

HE WAS INTERESTED IN DISCUSSING WHAT HE CALLED THE DETERIORATION

OF THE "SPIRIT OF HELSINKI". BY THE LATTER HE MEANT THAT RECENT DEVELOPMENTS AND PUBLIC STATEMENTS HAVE GONE CONTRARY TO THE EFFORTS OF RELAXING TENSION BETWEEN EAST AND WEST.

2. MY ROMANIAN COLLEAGUE LISTED THE VARIOUS PROTESTS DANES HAD LODGED WITH THE POLISH FOREIGN MINISTER WHEN HE VISITED COPENHAGEN IN FEBRUARY REGARDING VIOLATIONS OF THEIR AIR AND NAVAL SPACE BY POLISH CRAFTS, AS WELL AS SIMILR DISCUSSIONS DANES HAD HAD WITH RUSSIAN AND EAST GERMAN AMBASSADORS HERE. HE ALSO REFERRED TO DEBATE IN FOLKETING WHERE SOME DEPUTIES HAD EXPRESSED THEIR CONCERN OVER INCREASED COMMUNIST NAVAL AND AIR ACTIVITY IN BALTIC. AS A MATTER OF FACT, THE COMMUNIST NEWSPAPER IN COPENHAGEN HAS ACCUSED THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF DANISH ARMED FORCES, GENERAL BLIXENKRONE-MOLLER, OF WAVING WAND OF "INCREASED COMMUNIST ACTIVITIES IN THE BALTIC" TO JUSTIFY AN INCREASE IN THE DANISH DEFENSE BUDGET.

3. THE ROMANIAN AMBASSADOR INDICATED THAT THE WAY HE AND HIS EASTERN EUROPEAN COLLEAGUES SAW IT, THIS DANISH ACTION WAS NOT SPONTANEOUS, BUT SOMEHOW LINKED TO THE HARSHER TONE IN US PRONOUNCEMENTS ON RELATIONS WITH RUSSIA. HE MENTIONED THE DROPPING OF THE WORD "DETENTE" FROM OUR VOCABULARY, THE CANCELLATION OF MINISTERIAL VISITS FROM THE US TO THE SOVIET UNION, AND CHARP ATTACKS ON SOVIET INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA AS EXAMPLES OF CHANGE IN US ATTITUDE TOWARD MOSCOW. HE THEN STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING THE "SPIRIT OF HELSINKI" AND CONTINUING EFFORTS TO RELAX TENSION. HE DEPLORED THE THE DANISH ATTACKS ON THE EASTERN EUROPEANS AND THE SOVIET UNION FOR THEIR ACTIVITIES IN THE BALTIC.

4. SINCE HE CLEARLY IMPLIED THERE WAS SOME COLLUSION BETWEEN DANISH ACTIONS AND RECENT AMERICAN PRONOUNCEMENTS ON US POLICY TOWARDS SOVIET UNION, I REPLIED THAT TO BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE THERE WAS NO LINK BETWEEN THEM. I SAID THAT WHILE THE DANES HAVE STEPPED UP THEIR CRITICISM OF THE SOVIET UUNION, POLAND AND EAST GERMANY FOR INCREASED WARSAW PACT NAVAL AND AIR ACTIVITIES IN THE BALTIC, THIS IS NOT A NEW PHENOMENON. DANES HAD ALREADY COMPLAINED ABOUT THESE ACTIVITIES LAST YEAR. THEREFORE, THEIR MORE RECENT PROTESTS MERELY HAPPENED TO COINCIDE WITH SOME OF THE ACTIONS TAKEN BY US IN REGARD TO THE SOVIET UNION.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 COPENH 01127 030307Z

ABOVE ALL, I STRESSED THAT THESE DANISH ACTIONS VIS-A-VIS THE RUSSIANS, POLES AND EAST GERMANS WERE TAKEN UNILATERALLY, WITHOUT PRIOR CONSULTATION WITH US AND THAT THEY WERE TAKEN STRICTLY IN CONTEXT WITH WHAT DANES CONSIDER TO BE THEIR NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY. I ADDED THAT NATO MEMBERS DO NOT ACT THE SAME WAY AS WARSAW PACT MEMBERS; PERHAPS ROMANIAN AMBASSADOR WAS SO ACCUSTOMED TO THINKING IN WARSAW PACT TERMS WHERE ALL DECISIONS

ARE ORCHESTRATED BY SOVIET UNION, THAT HE ASCRIBED SAME MANNER
OF OPERATING TO THE US IN NATO. THIS, I SAID, IS NOT THE CASE.

5. I AVAILED MYSELF OF THIS OPPORTUNITY TO CALL ROMANIAN
AMBASSADOR'S ATTENTION TO SECRETARY KISSINGER'S SPEECH OF
FEBRUARY 3 WHICH SETS FORTH AMERICAN POLICY TOWARD SOVIET
UNION. SINCE HE HAD NOT READ THE SPEECH, I SAID I PREFERRED TO
SEND HIM COPY, RATHER THAN PARAPHRASE IT MYSELF. I DID
SO THE NEXT DAY AND HE THANKED ME FOR IT.

6. IF DEPT BELIEVES I SHOULD MAKE ADDITIONAL COMMENTS TO AMB
PLOESTEANU (WHICH WOULD OF COURSE TEACH EARS OF OTHER
EASTERN DIPLOMATIS), I WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING GUIDANCE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DETENTE, FOREIGN RELATIONS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, DIPLOMATIC PROTESTS, AIRSPACE VIOLATIONS, TERRITORIAL WATERS VIOLATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: saccheem
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976COPENH01127
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760126-0171
From: COPENHAGEN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t197604105/aaaadmaw.tel
Line Count: 129
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: saccheem
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 APR 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <09 AUG 2004 by saccheem>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ROMANIAN AMBASSADOR'S VIEWS ON DANISH COMPLAINTS ABOUT COMMUNIST ACTIVITIES IN BALTIC
TAGS: PFOR, DA, US, RO, UR, (PLOESTEANU, GEORGE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006